



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
www.sheriffdunlap.org

Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

Date: January 29, 2014

Ref: Car VS Train Accident Newell St. Painesville Township, Ohio

On Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 1514 hrs. the Lake County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the CSX Rail Road Crossing on Newell St. Painesville Twp., Ohio ref: Vehicle struck by a train. Investigation concluded that JOHN R. BLAIR (33 YOA who resides in Conneaut, Ohio) was operating a 2006 Ford F150 truck S/B on Newell St. when his vehicle was struck by a CSX train that was traveling west. John Blair sustained minor injury and was treated/released at Tri Point Medical Campus.



Investigation along with witness statements revealed John Blair had come upon the CSX Railroad Crossing which had the crossing gates lowered and the warning lights flashing. The railroad crossing consists of five sets of railroad tracks. A train was parked on the middle set of tracks, to the east of the crossing, and appeared to John Blair to be the reason for the crossing gates being lowered and the warning lights flashing. The parked train however was obstructing John Blair's view of the approaching train that was on the set of tracks just south of the parked train. John Blair, along with other motorists had proceeded around the lowered crossing gate and entered on to the railroad crossing. Several of the motorists that were ahead of John Blair were able to clear the crossing successfully. John Blair was not as fortunate and his Ford truck was struck on the driver side, bed area.



The impact from the train caused John Blair's truck to be propelled airborne. The truck rotated over one hundred and eighty degrees counterclockwise and was tossed about seventy feet to the southwest. John Blair's truck came to final rest on the south side, railroad, right of way.

The CSX train that struck John Blair's truck was traveling at 58 MPH. The CSX train consisted of two engines and nineteen cars. John Blair was wearing his safety belt at the time of the collision. Painesville City Fire and Rescue responded to assist and had used mechanical means in order to extricate John Blair from his truck. John Blair was issued a citation for disregarding his duties at rail road crossings.

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